

OCTOBER MAGAZINES.

THE INTERNATIONAL.

A large space in this number is devoted to a review by Dr. O. W. Holmes of Mr. Edwin Arnold's admirable poem "The Light of Asia," with copious extracts from the manifold beauties of its contents. Dr. Holmes characterizes the poem as "a story of intense interest, which never flags for a moment; its descriptions are drawn by the hand of a master with the eye of a poet and the familiarity of an expert with the objects described; its tone is so lofty that there is nothing with which to compare it but the New Testament." It is full of variety, now picturesque, now pathetic, now rising into the noblest realms of thought and aspiration; it finds language penetrating, fluent, elevated, impassioned, musical always, to clothe its varied thoughts and sentiments." The attention of Dr. Holmes was called to "the noble side which has been added to English literature" by a friend and colleague, the classmate now living in England, whose "high idealism, cultivation, and learning lend a value to his critical opinion," who remarks in a letter: "The charm of the book is the life-like vividness, freshness with which the poet has transposed the atmosphere, the landscapes, the architecture, the gardens and groves, the manners and tons of thought and feeling, the very spirit and essence of India into our Western World." * * * But wonderfully beautiful is the framework of this living tissue, the central interest of the poem is in its portraiture of Buddha himself. Familiar as I have been for years with Indian literature, in the original books as translated into German, French, and English, and the various descriptions and critical commentaries of modern writers, it seems to me that the very genius and ideal, the magnificence and heroic character, the truly heavenly, merciful nobility and all-compassionate humanity of Buddha have never been presented with such symmetry, grandeur and grace combined as in this poem." A scathing and incisive article by F. N. Guernsey, trustee of "The Negro Exodus," describing the causes of the negro's frequent discontent with his material conditions and his dissatisfaction with his anomalous political status, which afford a satisfactory explanation of the general unpopularity of the colored population. "The Political Situation of France," by H. Tolander, is an interesting discussion of the prospects of the Republic, especially in its relations with the Church, and there are valuable papers on "Van Holst's History of the United States," by Henry Cabot Lodge, and "The Study and Practice of Medicine by Women," by James S. Cudwick.

THE NORTH AMERICAN.

In an article on "The Woman Question," Mr. Francis Parkman contends that the supreme law of sex assigns different duties and different relations to men and women in the complex arrangement of forces which constitutes civilized society. The typical man or woman is perfectly constituted. The one is made for conflict, the other, it would appear, though it is not an entirely stated by Mr. Parkman, for moral influence. The typical man is well appointed for his work, whether to confront his enemy in battle, or to battle in the interest of a purpose against cold and hunger, or want. His mind is governed by reason rather than by emotion, and is deliberate and logical, adapted to means to ends. The susceptibility of the typical woman, on the other hand, suits her to rule, conflict. Her whole nature corresponds to the rounded outlines and softer masses of her physical frame. The reciprocity between the two opposite halves of human nature extends over a wide field, not only in passions and emotions, but in the regions of moral and intellectual life. This principle is the most pervading among the forces of human life. It is the spring of the chief pleasures and the chief pains of our social condition. While it gives the noblest ambitions, it may become the source of unceasing disorganization. This power is not founded on superficial resemblance, but on radical differences of nature and function. Through them woman is exalted by the constitution of her nature from joining in the mere condition of a militant world. It is only to ignore them, or attempt to counteract them by political or social ordinances, that they might both legislatures and peoples. The demand for enlarging the sphere of woman is to increase the excellencies that are already too great. It is to add to their own work the work of men, and thus launch them into the turmoil where the most robust often fall of success. The question of female suffrage thus becomes a practical question, and not one of declamation. After an able discussion of the subject from this point of view, Mr. Parkman presents the conclusion that the suffrage in the hands of women would be attended with disastrous consequences. The better educated classes would be cut out in their own kitchens. The mass of poverty, ignorance, and vice that forms a startling proportion of our city populations would receive an enormous accession to its power by the hands of the reckless and scheming politicians. If he could not reach the better class of female voters, the rest would be ready at his bidding. Many women will sell themselves, many more would sell their votes. A large proportion would be swayed not by principles, but by personal predilections. Even with the best of their sex, such characters do not always lean to the soundest and most stable wisdom, either for public or private life. The female cohorts of crowded cities would espouse the cause of their favorites, with a vehemence unknown to men, but it would be infinitesimal to believe that they could dispose them in the name of good government. The outcasts of society, moreover, would undeniably have their watchword and their chief. The evils of universal female suffrage would be greatest in dense industrial populations. In the country, they would be less felt, and least of all in the simple life of the thinly-settled borders, or the Far West. Like other political evils, they would reach their climax in great cities. "The government of these is difficult enough already. To make it impossible would be madness." Mr. Parkman concludes his argument and prophecy as follows: "Neither Congress, nor the States, nor the united voice of the whole people could permanently change the essential relations of the sexes. Universal female suffrage, even if desired, would make itself in time; but the attempt to establish it would work deplorable mischief. The question is, whether the persistency of a few agitators shall plunge a nation into the most recklessness of all experiments; whether we shall adopt this supreme device for developing the defects of woman, and diminish their real power to build an ugly machinery instead. For the sake of womanhood let us hope not. In spite of the effect on the popular mind of the incessant repetition of a few trifles, and in spite of the squeamishness that prevails in the American people will vindicate itself against this most unnatural and pestilential revolution. In the fall and normal development of womanhood lie the best interests of the world. Let us labor earnestly for it, and, that we may not labor in vain, let us save women from the barren perniciousness of American politics. Let us respect them, and, that we may do so, let us pray for deliverance from female suffrage." Other articles in this number which will be read with interest for their ability and original suggestion are, "Science and Humanity," by Frederic Harrison; "A CLASS FOR Young Gentlemen," by Professor O. C. Marsh, and other articles by prominent scientific writers. Also 20 percent of MR. EDISON'S LATEST INVENTION. PRICE 10 CENTS. For sale by all Newsdealers, or sent by mail on receipt of price. Address, THE TRIBUNE, New-York.

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LIPINCOTT.

The present number has the usual variety of interesting descriptive articles, among which the reader will find worthy of attention "Bambis of Tibet," by Margaret Berlin Wright, describing the ramble of a party of American artists in the purple island of Capri; a fourth chapter of "Snowland Stories"; "Chamlos Shooting with the Emperor of Austria," by W. H. Grahame, the famous Tyrolean traveler; and "Sunday in England," by an English contributor. Mr. William Stone gives some of the fruits of his researches in American Revolutionary history in a paper on "Lady Harriet Astor," correcting certain errors in previous accounts of the romantic career of that admirable lady. There are also pages on "American Landscape Gardening," by Edward C. Bruce; "The Study of English in Germany," by H. M. Kennedy, and "The Buried Wealth of South Jersey," by Mrs. E. B. Duhey. Many readers of *Our Magazine* will regret that the charming serial of "Winding Way" by Ellen W. Olney is brought to a close in the present number.

SCIENCE.

An amusing article is devoted to "Ups and Downs in Leadville," a city of two years' creation in an obscure neck of the Rocky Mountains, though its site has a history that goes back to many years, beginning at the present day. The writer, somewhat naively observes that though the streets of Leadville at night are dangerous places for the unwary, or those who are known to have wealth on their persons, and scenes are enacted at the theatre which even put to shame the vulgarized girls in the boxes, etc. it is "a safe and law-abiding community," adding, however, "for a Western camp of its character and size," the art and mystery of shooting wild-fowl on the Mississippi is described in a lively paper by Charles A. Zimmerman; "Edison's System of Telephony" is fully explained by Edward M. Fox; some sound reflections on the relations between literature and journalism are presented by John Arbuckle; and Miss Kate Field contributes an agreeable paper containing personal notices of Arthur Sullivan, the world-renowned author of "Pinafore."

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